

Applicant: Taka-Aki Sato
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Amendments to the claims:

Certain claims have been amended and others canceled below without disclaimer or prejudice to applicant's right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuation application.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

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Listing of claims:

1-133. (canceled)

134. (Currently Amended) A method for determining whether an agent decreases apoptosis comprising:

- (a) contacting the agent with a NADE protein and a p75 neurotrophin receptor in vitro under conditions which, in the absence of the agent, permit the formation of a complex between the NADE protein and the receptor;
- (b) determining the amount of complex formed in step (a) between the NADE protein and the receptor; and
- (c) determining whether the amount of complex determined in step (b) is less than the amount of complex formed in the absence of the agent, such lower amount indicating that the agent decreases apoptosis.

135. (Currently Amended) A method for determining whether an agent increases apoptosis comprising:

- (a) contacting the agent with a NADE protein and a p75 neurotrophin receptor in vitro under conditions which, in the absence of the agent, permit the formation of a complex between the NADE protein and the receptor;
- (b) determining the amount of complex formed in step (a) between the NADE protein and the

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receptor; and

- (c) determining whether the amount of complex determined in step (b) is greater than the amount of complex formed in the absence of the agent, such greater amount indicating that the agent increases apoptosis.

136. (Previously presented) The method of claim 134 or 135, wherein the NADE protein comprises the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:13.

137-138. (Canceled)

139. (Previously presented) The method of claim 138, wherein the intact cell is a neuron, a cardiac cell, or a lung cell.

140. (Previously presented) The method of claim 137, wherein the contacting of step (a) is not performed in an intact cell.

141. (Currently Amended) A method for determining whether an agent decreases apoptosis comprising:

- (a) contacting the agent in vitro with a cell that expresses a NADE protein and a p75 neurotrophin receptor;
- (b) determining the expression level of the NADE protein in the cell; and
- (c) determining whether the expression level determined in step (b) is lower than the

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NADE protein expression level determined in the absence of the agent, such lower expression level indicating that the agent decreases apoptosis.

142. (Currently Amended) A method for determining whether an agent increases apoptosis comprising:

- (a) contacting the agent in vitro with a cell that expresses a NADE protein and a p75 neurotrophin receptor;
- (b) determining the expression level of the NADE protein in the cell; and
- (c) determining whether the expression level determined in step (b) is greater than the NADE protein expression level determined in the absence of the agent, such greater expression level indicating that the agent increases apoptosis.

143. (Previously presented) The method of claim 141 or 142, wherein the NADE protein comprises the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:13.

144-145. (Canceled)

146. (Previously presented) The method of claim 141 or 142, wherein the cell is a neuron, a cardiac cell, or a lung cell.